

Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to force  
their stations to  
air an anti-Kerry  
documentary days  
before the election  
is a clear example  
of the dangers of  
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the  
public airwaves free  
of charge, and is  
obligated by law to  
serve the public  
interest. But when  
large companies  
control the  
airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy. Instead  
of something  
produced at "News  
Central" far away,  
it's more important  
that we see real  
people from our own  
communities and more  
substantive news  
about issues that  
matter.

I'm looking for a  
show of balance and  
fairness from  
Sinclair, such as  
equal time for a  
pro-Kerry  
presentation,  
perhaps the  
acclaimed  
documentary, "Going  
Upstream". Many of  
us had Vietnam  
veteran friends who  
also told us about  
the atrocities of  
some of our troops  
there and know the  
reportage of  
Pulitzer-prize  
winning writer,  
Seymour Hersh,  
testifying to this  
dark day. Abu  
Ghraib is hardly off  
of our radar screen,  
a fresh reminder of  
how this can happen  
-- again -- as a  
result of

pathological  
leadership.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard. Thank you.